

Application No.: 10/671063

Case No.: 58782US002

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19, 22, have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the power switch is configured to provide DC voltage pulses. Support for this amendment may be found in the Specification at page 3, lines 13-15. In claim 11 "voltagepulse" was changed to "voltage pulse" to correct a typographical error. In claim 14 the term "resonant circuit" was amended to state "resonant heating circuit". Support for this amendment may be found e.g., at page 2, line 11.

§ 112 Rejections

Claims 2-5, 11-13, 15, 17-19, and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In the office action, Claim 2 was rejected for lack of antecedent basis for the phrase "the DC voltage pulses". In response to this rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the power switch is configured to provide DC voltage pulses.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of the term "voltagepulse" in claim 11, "voltagepulse" was changed to "voltage pulse" to correct a typographical error.

Claim 15 has been amended to spell out the term IGBT and to amend the phrase "the control voltage" to "a control voltage" in response to the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 17 was rejected for lack of antecedent basis for the terms "the first series" and "the second series". In response to this rejection, Claim 17 has been amended to replace the phrases with "a first series" and "a second series" respectively.

In Claim 19, the term "Schmitt Trigger" was deleted and replaced with the term "trigger" in response to the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 22 was rejected for insufficient basis for the phrase "the resonant heating circuit" either in claim 22 or preceding claim 14. As stated above, claim 14 was amended to provide support for the term "the resonant heating circuit".

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§ 102 Rejections

Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Estes (U.S. Patent No. 4,358,654).

In response to this rejection, claim 11 was amended to include the following language which may be found in original claim 1: "wherein a pulse initiator is positioned across the power switch and configured to monitor a voltage across the power switch and to initiate application of a subsequent DC voltage pulse to the resonant heating circuit upon detecting a substantially zero voltage across the power switch during a first cycle of the oscillating voltage."

The office action states that the reason for allowable subjectmatter in the case is that the prior art of record does not show or suggest the use of a pulse initiator coupled across the power switch. Therefore, applicants assert that the addition of this limitation to claim 11 places claim 11 and dependant claims 12 and 13 in condition for allowance.

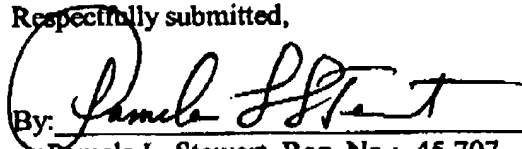
In view of the above, Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

If the Examiner determines that there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a teleconference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

March 14, 2005

Date

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